Green FORCE

FOSTER RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FOR GREEN TRANSITION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS
PROJECT 101059411

Unpacking the 'Just Green Transition'

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Making Sense of concepts

- Sustainable Development
- Green Economy
- Green Growth
- De-Growth
- Circular economy
- Bioeconomy
- Green Transition
- Just Green Transition

Relate to interrelated socio-ecological systems - emphasis on different aspects

- Conservation

→ Preserving, independent from socio-economic systems performance

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Relation between environment, society & economy

➢ Rational changes over time based on awareness, values, cosmovision

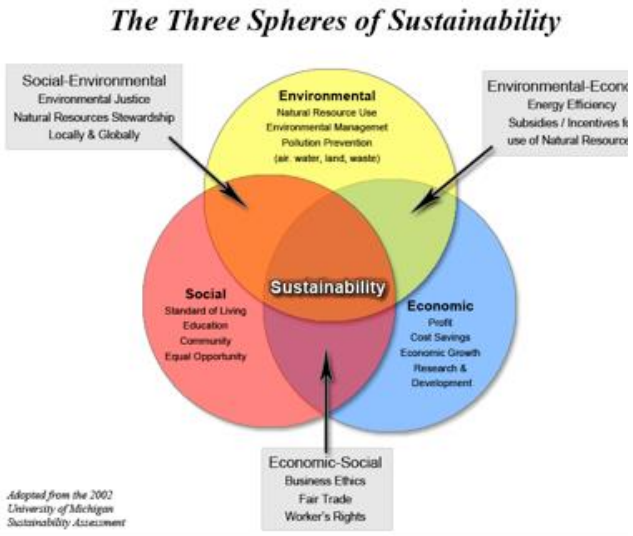
time

Sustainability (1713)

German -Nachhaltigkeit- meaning **“sustained yield”.** First used in a forestry handbook to advise **never to harvest more than the forest can self-regenerate**

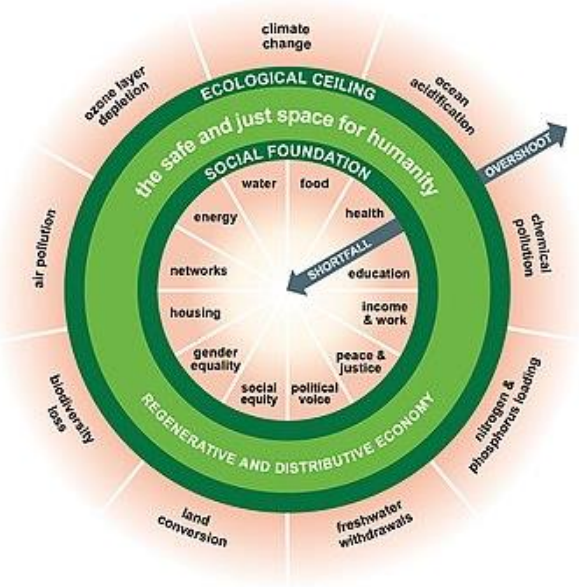
The World Energy Foundation

Sustainability related to how humans live in the planet (1980’s)

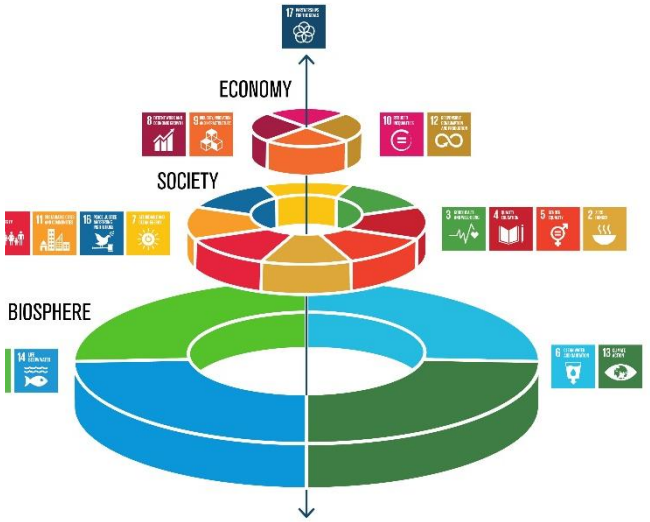


Vanderbilt University

Green Economy, green growth… ‘Doughnut model’ (1980’s – 2000’s) –



Non-anthropocentric - Stockholm Resilience Centre on Agenda 2030 (2016)



[Just] Green Transition: new buzzword, new meaning?

*"Climate change and environmental degradation are an **existential threat** to the European Union and to the world. To overcome these challenges, the European Green Deal is Europe's new **growth strategy**, which will **transform** the Union into a modern, **resource-efficient** and **competitive economy**. The European Green Deal aims to make Europe **climate neutral by 2050**, boost the economy through green **technology**, create **sustainable industry and transport, and cut pollution**. Turning climate and environmental challenges into **opportunities** will make the transition **just and inclusive for all**."* (EU Commission – DG Reform)

- Politically engineered
- Implies action - change
- Implemented through: Green Deal (e.g. Just transition Fund) & Green Agenda for the WB → transposed to strategies, policies, measures at national and sub-national levels in all sectors.
- How? technology – technical change
- Justice – how do we achieve it? – opportunities.....

= New Industrial Revolution?

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EU's Growth Strategy

€1 Trillion Investment Plan

Elements of the EU Green Deal:

- Climate action
- Clean energy
- Sustainable industry
- Buildings and renovations
- Sustainable mobility
- Eliminating pollution
- Farm to Fork
- Preserving biodiversity
- Research and development
- Preventing unfair competition from carbon leakage

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Policy frame Western Balkans

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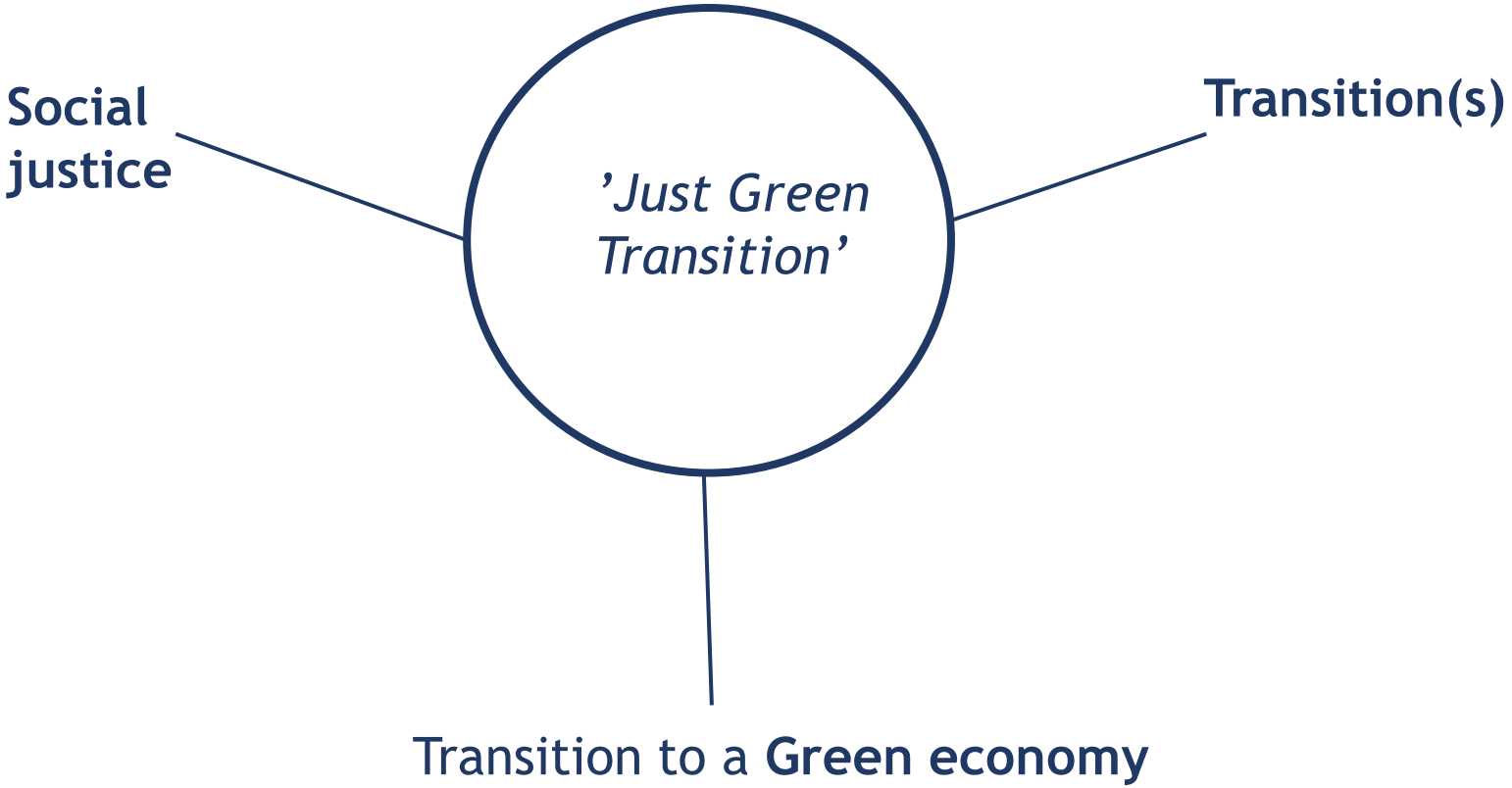
…beyond policy?

Just Green Transition → Three embedded concepts



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'Just Green Transition'

Transition to a **Green economy**

Implies…

- Recognizing the ecological boundaries of the planet for development.
- creating societies with low carbon rates or carbon neutral
- requires a move from a linear to a circular economy and the concept emphasizes the importance of social inclusiveness and wellbeing.

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Transition(s)

Transitions or 'socio-technical transitions'
Complex system change - multi-dimensional and multi-level - in time and place (at different scales), e.g. towards more sustainable societies.

What makes the JGT special?

Engineered → policy driven

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Social Justice

Core construct: "*no one left behind…*" *(premise EU Green Deal)*

Modern concept: based on the inequalities arose from industrial revolution (19th century)

'Just transition' comes from the international labour union movement - 1990s - rooted on the processes of industrial reconversion in the 1970-80s.

Originally as a set of corrective and compensatory measures.

Key tenets:

- **Distributional justice** (where impacts and resources are located and distributed);
- **Recognition justice** (recognized or neglected groups);
- **Procedural justice** (formal & informal involvement; degree of influence);
- **Spatial justice** (spatial distribution / effects)

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Just Green Transition: A working Definition

"A just green transition is defined as a process of far-reaching sociotechnical change leading to a more sustainable future implying a climate-neutrality while preserving biodiversity and ensuring social justice" (Cedergren et al., 2022)

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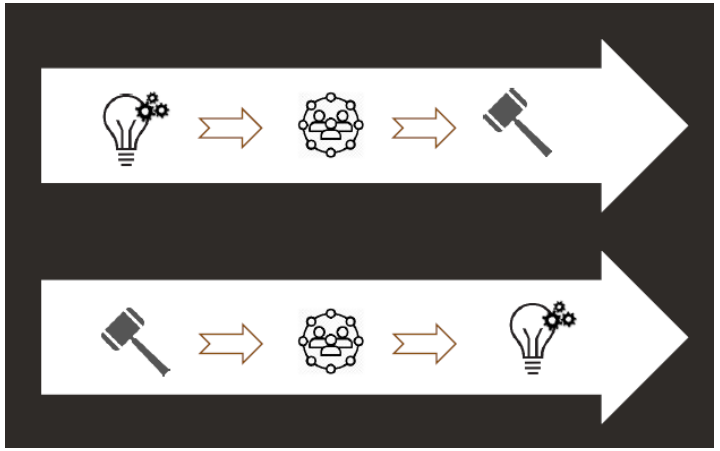
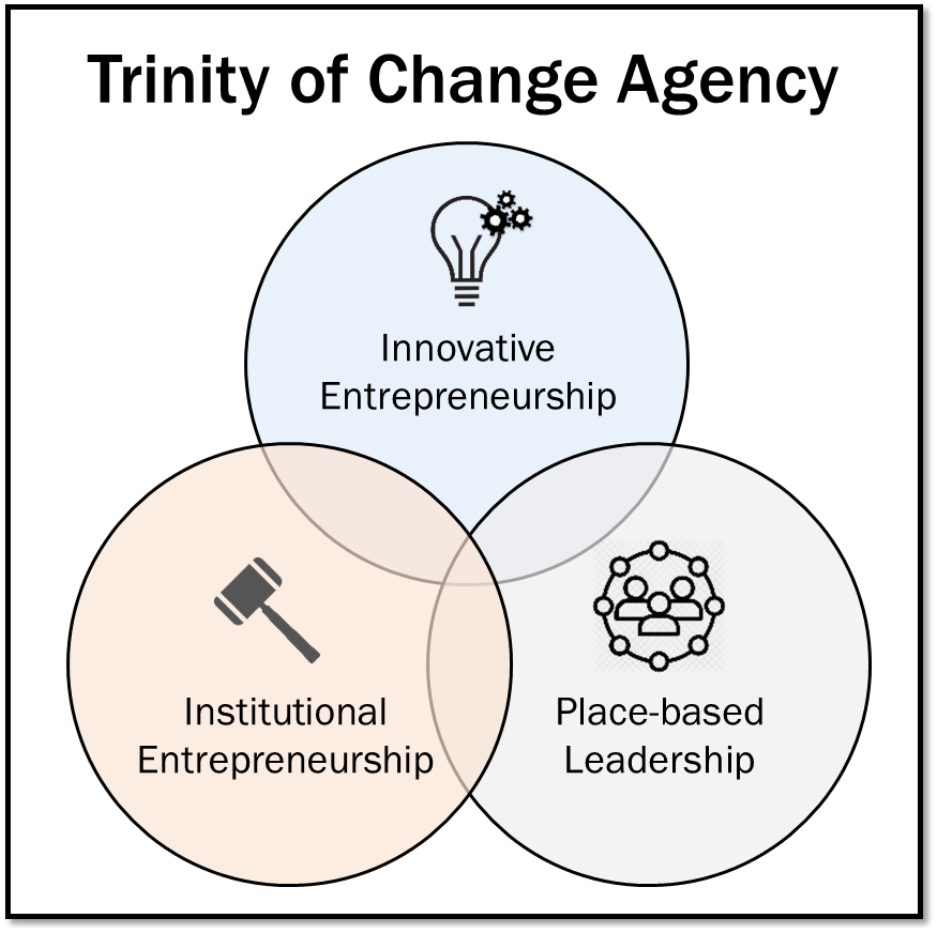
Where does change come from?

- Transformative change requires actors driving processes (but often focus more on structures impeding change)
- Different ‘Change Agents’ can be the driving force and/or be in action at once
- At what scale? Global/ local? (place vs placeless)





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Resources

- (Section 3): http://pub.nordregio.org/wp-2022-3-the-social-impacts-of-climate-mitigation-policies-on-vulnerable-groups/#

Discussion
&
Questions

Nordregio

Nordic centre for regional development and planning

Stockholm, Sweden

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The Nordic Collaboration

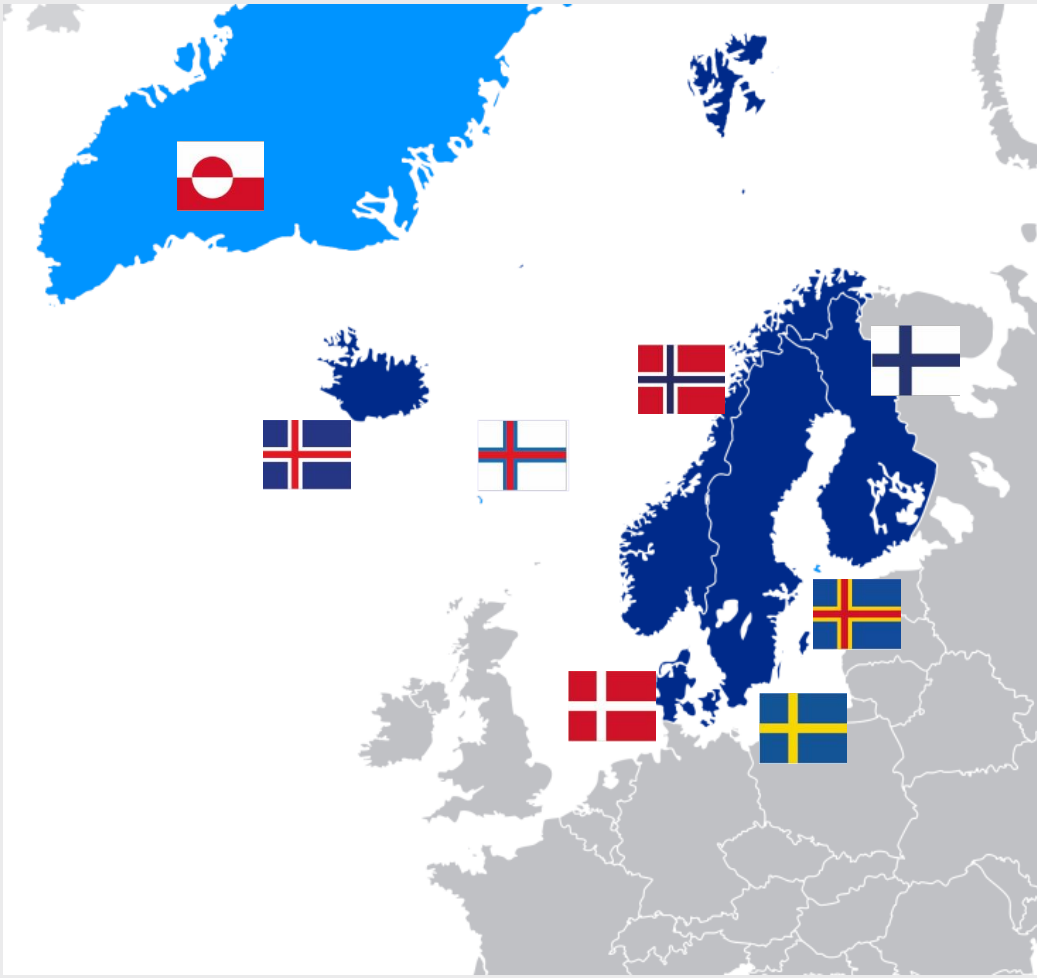
Nordic Council (1952): inter-parliamentarian cooperation

Nordic Council of Ministers (1974): is an intergovernmental forum established after the Helsinki Treaty

Members: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the autonomous regions of Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland

Secretariat: headquarters in Copenhagen

Many offices and **organisations (e.g. Nordregio)**



Our vision 2030

A **competitive** Nordic region

Together, we will promote green growth in the Nordic region based on knowledge, innovation, mobility and digital integration.

The Nordic region will become the most sustainable and integrated region in the world

A **green** Nordic region

Together, we will promote a green transition of our societies and work towards carbon neutrality and a sustainable circular and bio-based economy.

A **socially sustainable** Nordic region

Together, we will promote an inclusive, equal and interconnected region with shared values and strengthened cultural exchange and welfare.

Green FORCE

(Applied) Research areas

- Regional, urban & urban development
- Spatial planning (urban, maritime...)
- Geography
- Socio-economic studies
- Demography
- Governance
- ...

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Regional Cooperation programme 2021-2024

Nordic Thematic Groups:

A:Green and Inclusive Urban Development

B: Green and Inclusive Rural Development

C: Green, Innovative and Resilient Regions

Nordregio Staff

50 staff members (66% women)

18 nationalities

43 years average age

50% researchers have PHDs

Nordregio Team

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